

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during May 2007

As of June 1, Water Year 2007 statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 65% of average to date; runoff, 55% of average to date; and reservoir storage, 95% of average for the date. On April 1, the statewide snow pack was about 40% of the April 1 average (the usual date of maximum accumulation). This is the smallest snowpack for April 1 since 1988 when the statewide snowpack was at 30 percent of the April 1 average. On May 1, 2007, the statewide snowpack was only about 25% of normal due to below-normal snowfall and above-normal temperatures during April. Usually, snowmelt continues well into June, but by June 1 of this water year, the statewide snowpack was essentially gone. In general, seasonal precipitation during this water year has been below average, especially in Southern California. On May 31, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index had a seasonal total of 35.5", which is about 75% of the seasonal average to date and about 71% of average for an entire Water Year (50.0"). During Water Year 2007, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index had the sixth driest January and March on record. (In contrast, the other large precipitation months of December and February were above normal at 101% and 170% of average, respectively.) The Water Year 2007 October through May seasonal total of 35.5" is the 25th driest year out of 88 years of record. In both Northern and Southern California, fire season has begun early because of the dryness.

The projected median April-July unimpaired snowmelt runoff for the State's major water supply basins now ranges from 56% (Shasta Lake Inflow) to 22% (Tule River). Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through May 31 was about 8.7 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 55% of average. (On May 31, 2006, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was about 28.7 MAF or about 180% of average.) During May, unimpaired runoff volumes for all rivers were well below average. The median forecasts of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type indexes are "Dry" and "Critical," respectively.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 05/31/2007 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2005 - 2006 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2006 - 2007
Eureka	35.02	94	58.38	156	91
Redding	22.73	69	45.03	137	67
Sacramento	11.95	61	25.63	130	60
San Jose	9.28	62	22.54	150	61
Fresno	6.03	55	14.56	132	53
Bakersfield	3.06	48	6.85	108	47
Los Angeles	3.21	21	13.19	87	21
San Diego	3.85	36	5.42	51	35

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 05/31/2007								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,958	2,152	91	2,448	80	---	490
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,614	3,963	91	4,552	79	-938	938
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,965	3,041	97	3,538	84	-573	573
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	858	830	103	966	89	-106	108
Folsom Lake	American	787	832	95	977	81	-184	190
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,784	1,499	119	2,420	74	-630	636
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,611	1,529	105	2,030	79	-383	419
Lake McClure	Merced	659	698	94	1,025	64	-305	366
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	346	406	85	520	67	-175	174
Pine Flat Res	Kings	699	719	97	1,000	70	-301	301
Isabella	Kern	242	292	83	568	43	-181	326
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,044	1,678	62	2,039	51	---	995

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) 90-Day long-range seasonal weather outlook (for June through August), issued May 17, suggests average precipitation for all of California, except for the northern quarter of the State, where slightly below normal rainfall is forecast. Temperatures are expected to be above normal for all of California, except for the central and southern coasts where normal temperatures are forecast. The latest CPC long-range weather for June, issued May 31, suggests average precipitation for all of California, except for the Sierra where below average rainfall is forecast. Temperatures are expected to be above normal for all of California, except for the coast where normal temperatures are forecast. For both the one and three month forecasts, temperatures are expected to be well above average for the American Southwest.